



Global Horizons: Securing the 8M+ global job opportunity for India's talent by 2030

November 2024

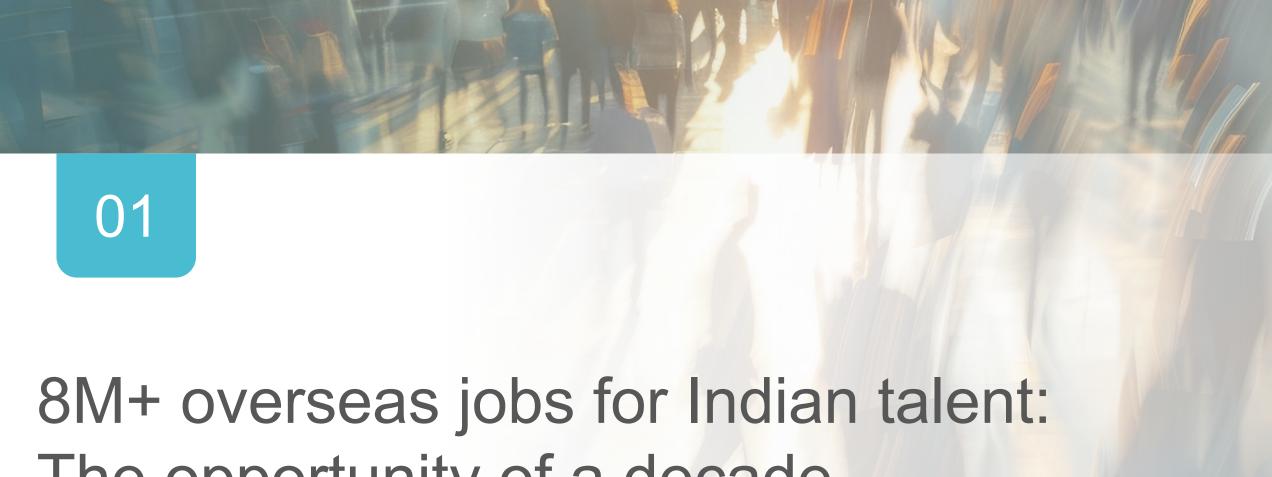


01

8M+ overseas jobs for Indian talent: Opportunity of a decade

02

Critical structural unlocks needed to realize full potential



The opportunity of a decade



India's time to act is now



Global Labor Gap



Labor gap in high-income economies

- 90%+ opportunity in 20 countries
- Driven by blue-collar jobs (60%) and nursing/ healthcare



India's Opportunity in 2030¹



Net overseas employment flow – 1.5-2x of current flows



Potential stock of Indian migrant workers – 2-2.5x of today



Potential inward remittances – 4-5% of Indian GDP (vs 3% today)

*) × > 0

India's Strategic Play



Build winners in India: Replicate ITeS like success stories in healthcare, green skills/electric vehicles, domestic workers



Geostrategic partner: Position India as a trusted circular migration partner for top economies



India as global talent brand: Strategic powerhouse in key roles (e.g., manufacturing) & net new areas (e.g., care workers)



Now or Never



New destinations opening: Large opportunities in Germany, Japan, South Korea - diversify beyond Gulf, US, Canada



New competition: Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Vietnam, Brazil and others are catching up



Window of opportunity for India is right now: India risks losing demographic advantage to Africa in 2030s

^{1.} The numbers are the opportunity figures in achievable scenario – the flow and stock are annual numbers, excluding movement of students, tourists and PR, Greencard holders Source: Expert Interviews, BCG analysis

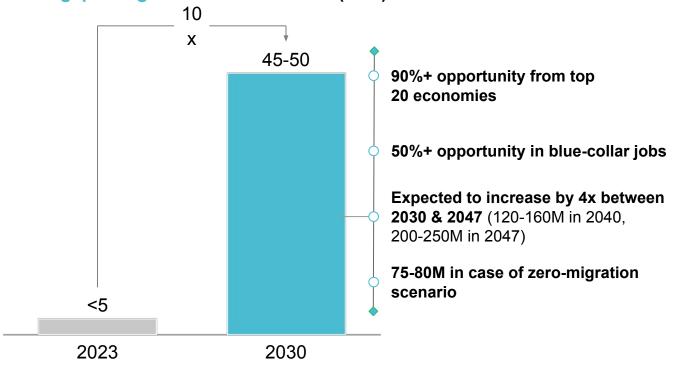
High-income countries could face a 45-50M labor gap by 2030 – unless more labor migration fills this gap

Key factors impacting labor gap growth

- Decrease in labor supply due to rapidly changing demographics in key economies
- Higher need for healthcare and care workers as the population ages
- Advancements in Gen Al impact several jobs (e.g., routine manual/non-manual)

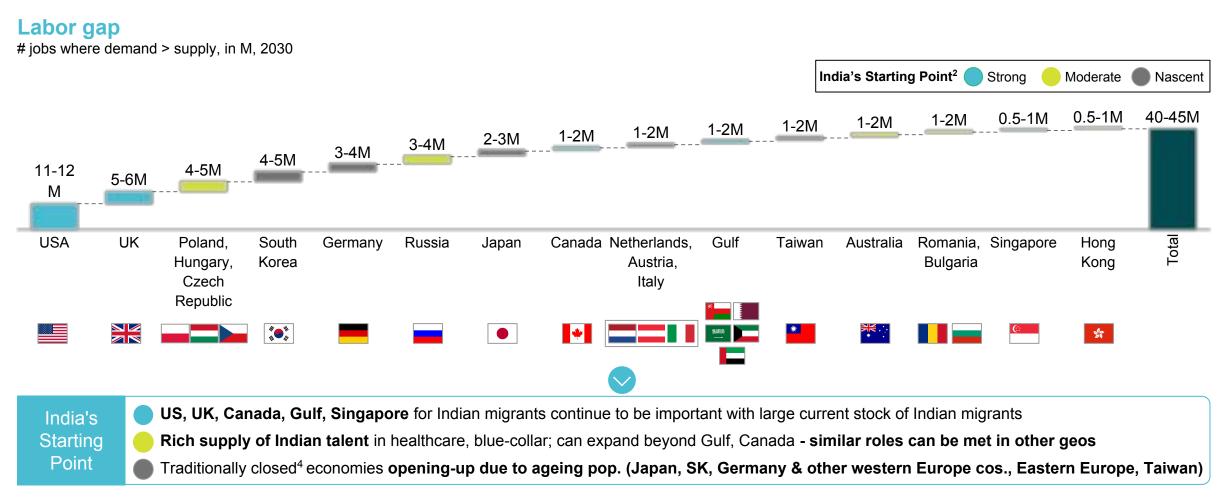
Labor gap expected to increase by 10x by 2030 (vs 2023)





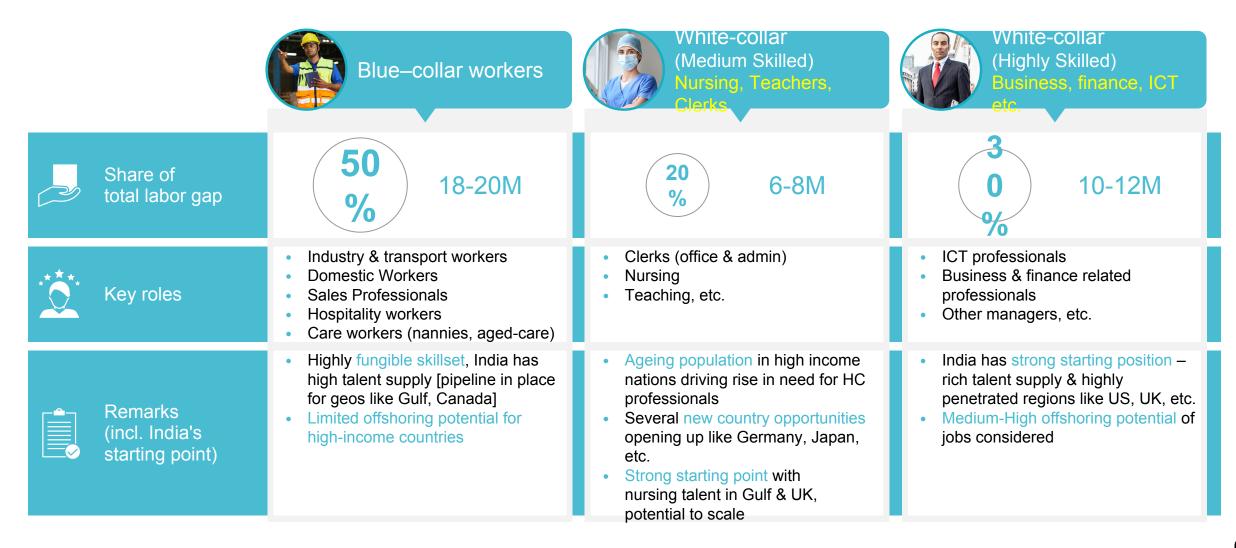
^{1.} For countries experiencing labor gap due to supply shortages amongst analysis done for 68 high-income economies, 2. Labor Gap refers to when demand for labor is higher than local supply of talent in a country; 3. Assessment for top high-income countries; 4. UNPD Medium Scenario used, 5. Demand without impact of technology/AI, Supply is including current flow of migration; Source: World Bank, Migration Data Portal, UNPD, BCG Eurostat, DoL USA, Analyses

20 countries drive 90% (40-45M) of the labor gap; Largest gap in USA, UK with new hotspots in Germany, Japan, and South Korea



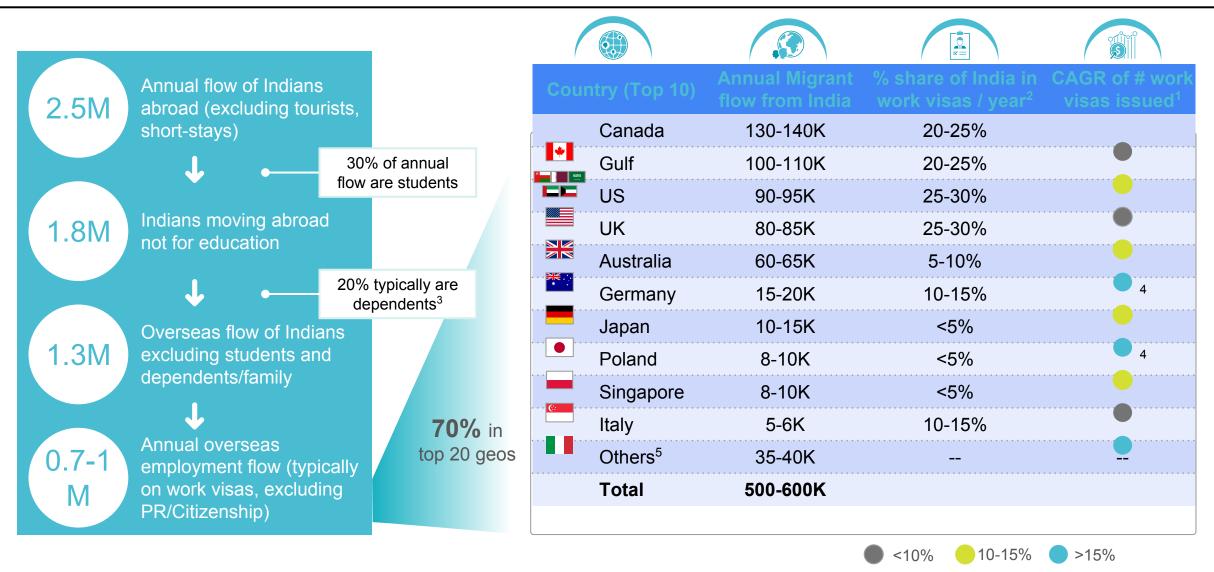
Notes: 1. Labor Gap is defined as excess demand which cannot be catered by workforce in that country, 2. Derived from volume of stock of Indians working in that country & flow of migrants, 3. Gulf countries-Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait.4. Traditionally closed to large scale legal immigration of mid skilled talent Source: UNPD, World Bank, Oxford Economics, IMF-WEO, Expert Interviews, BCG Analysis

Blue-collar jobs in manufacturing, domestic workers, transportation, and nursing will be key drivers of overseas employment





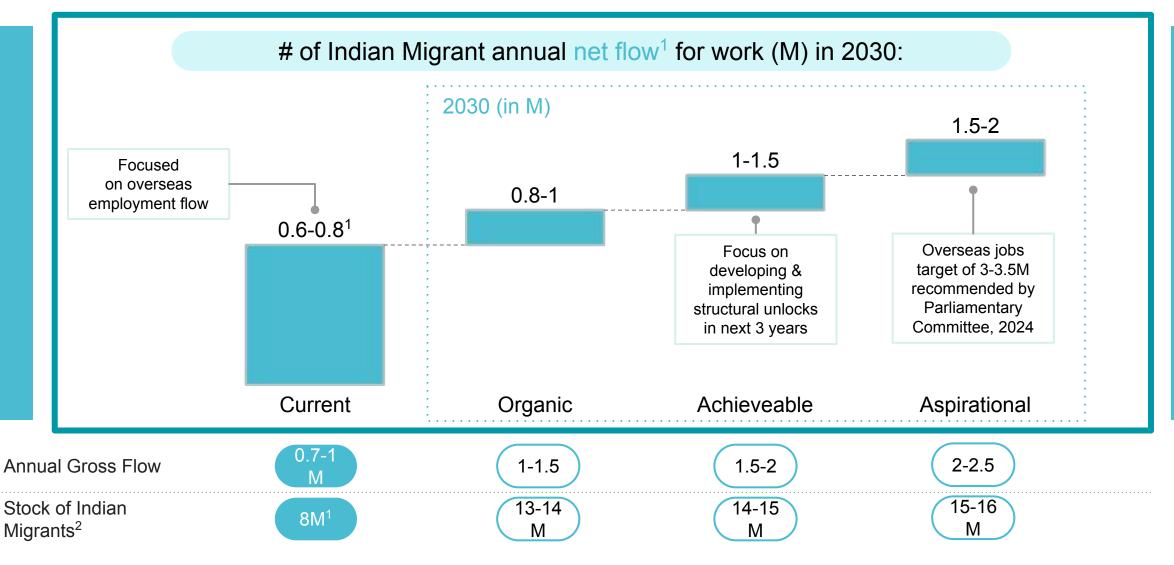
0.7-1M Indians migrate for overseas employment annually; 70%+ in top 20 countries



Notes: 1. 2019-2023 CAGR wherever data available, else last year growth rate 2. First time work permits data from EUROSTAT used wherever data from national portals not available, 3. 40% in OECD countries, much lower in Gulf, avg. of 20% considered; 4. Estimated numbers, 5. Others includes Singapore, Hong Kong, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Austria, Netherlands; Source: World Bank, Press Search

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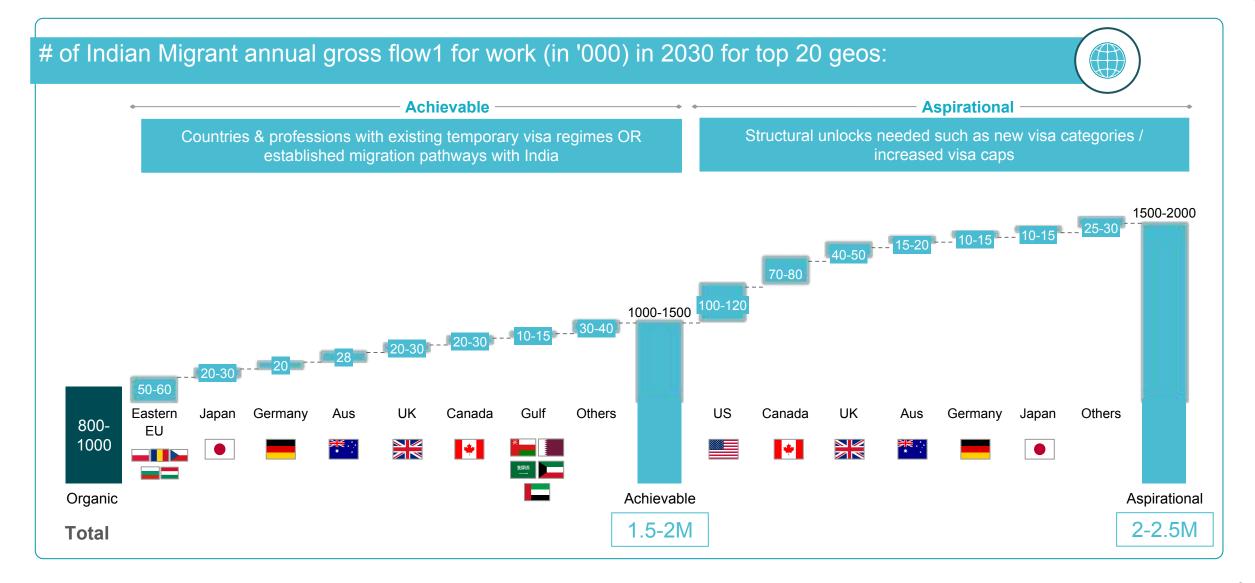
India could nearly double its annual net talent flows to 1 - 1.5M by 2030



^{1.} Avg return of Indians considered as 5-6 years for 20%; Sources: MEA, UNPD Population, Expert Interviews, BCG Analysis, 2. Does not include permanent residences, green card holders, etc.







Several structural challenges exist that prevent India in achieving its full potential on overseas employment



- Political and public concerns over migrant's long term settlement, altering local demographics
- Visa / bureaucratic constraints with high cost / language / accreditation barriers to entry
 - 3 Limited & disaggregated demand from employers with limited awareness of Indian talent

Supply

- 4 Limited skill requirements & recognition with Indian certifications not recognized
- Financing barriers with prohibitive costs for immigrants and limited lending options

Binding constraints

Philippines case study: Philippines government has put concerted efforts on accelerating & facilitating overseas employment for its citizens

Philippines migration

~2.2M

Overseas Filipino workers stock 2023

1M OFWs

annual global placements

\$37B Remittances

~8.5% of the economy

Ecosystem created to drive overseas employment

Focused Nodal Agency: Department of Migrant Workers at the central government mandated to increase and facilitate the overseas employment of Filipino workers

Thriving private ecosystem: Enabling environment for thriving private global recruitment industry with 3400+ registered agencies with growth of large organized companies that enable scale ethical migration - with multiple agencies sending 20-40K people annually

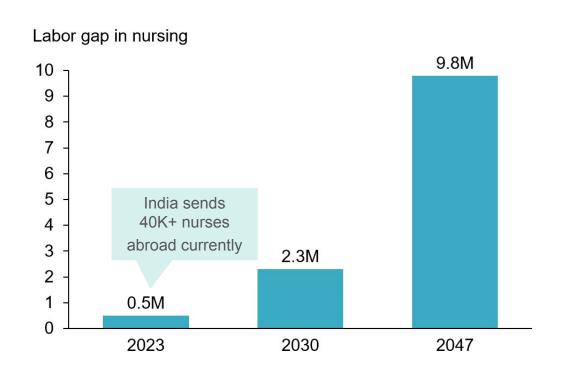
Strong foreign relations: Unlocks high demand for Filipino workers

- 65+ G2G Labor Mobility Agreements
- Employer interaction and marketing in destination country, accompanied by key Filipino industry players

Skilling: Harmonization of skilling with global standards - for e.g., Nursing colleges follow U.S. based NCLEX standards; multiple partnerships with global universities

Nursing: Key global profession with labour shortages, however complex and expensive process for Indian nurses to tap into the opportunity

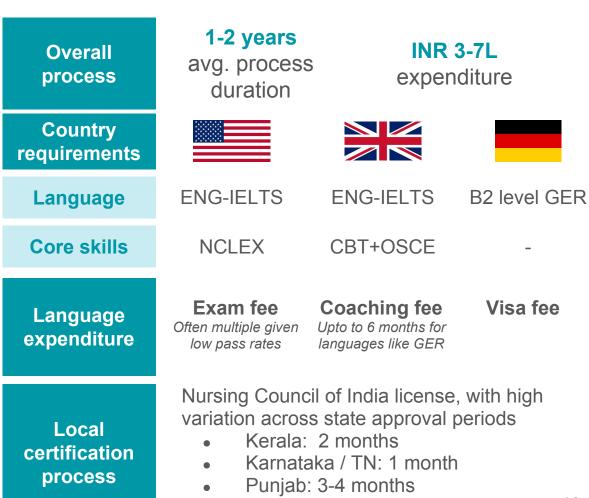
Nursing is a key profession with shortages & openness to global recruitment

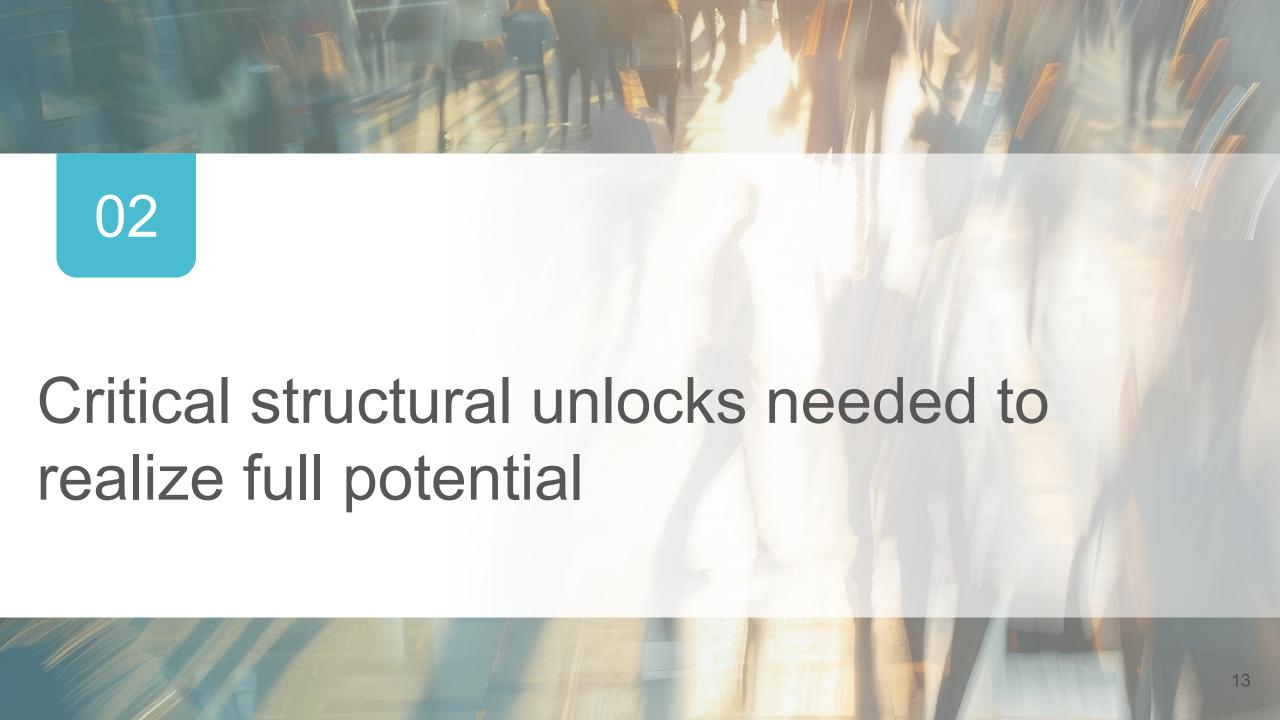


Increasing openness for global nurses

NHS in U.K. today employs 30% non-British nurses (majority Asian) and is expected to increase

However, the process of obtaining license to operate is time consuming & expensive





Integrated strategy to unlock India's overseas potential

Horizon 1 unlocks - 'Achievable scenario'



- Create G2G partnerships to mobilize large scale labor demand and create migration pathways
- Unlock bureaucratic visa hurdles for rotational migration at top destinations
 - 3 Drive & Position 'Talent India' as a scalable, quality solution for circular migration with employers



- 4 Harmonize demand-centric skilling, and accreditation for top occupations
- 5 Formalize financing via bridging loans and rotation funds

Horizon 2 unlocks - Ambitious scenario'

6 Unlock Visa Caps and advocate for rotational migration visas in other countries

7 Design a credible return mechanisms for temporary migrant workers

Japan: Existing temporary visa regimes; to build India brand and gain share from Vietnam, China (1/2)



Japan migration outlook

~3M Migrant Stock, 2022

~300K Labor Migrant flow, 2022 (including trainees)

24% China, 20% Vietnam

Top source countries of new labor migrants

India-Japan migration

~13K (3-4%) India flow of workers, 2021

Memorandum of Cooperation on SSWs & multiple BLAs between India & Japan

Japa	an labor visas	Coverage	Visa numbers
Rotational visas – no path to citizenship	Specified Skilled Worker (SSW) Up to 5 years	Foreign nationals with exposure to expertise and skills in certain industrial fields {blue & white collar} 16 occupations included in SSW: nursing, cleaning, industrial work, food processing, hospitality, construction	Cap of 350K migrants set in 2019 for 5 years;
	Technical Intern Training Program visa 3-5 years	Under trainees or interns for on-the job training {Blue-collar} Care giving, construction, farming, industries	No cap, but ~400K visas issued annually
Long term visas White collar	Highly skilled professional visa	Academic Research, Specialized/Technical, Mgmt Activities	No cap, ~600K in 2021
	Start-up visa	Foreign Entrepreneur supported by few municipalities in Japan	No caps
	Working visa {white collar}	For professional roles and jobs	No caps

Japan: Existing temporary visa regimes; to build India brand and gain share from Vietnam, China (2/2)



Key barriers to "rotational" mobility from India

- High language & technical requirements for visas: TITP visa requires applicants to pass N5 Japanese language proficiency test even for blue-collar jobs; while SSW requires N4 or higher
- Strong push & established channels with SEA countries: Countries like Vietnam, the Philippines, and China dominate due to cultural affinities and strong government support. For example, the Philippines has dedicated government desks in Japan to promote Filipino workers and address employer concerns
- Assimilation Challenges: Cultural differences and the Japanese language pose significant barriers for Indian talent, making integration and performance more difficult.

Achievable incremental India opportunity 2030:

20-30K p.a.



Push for reduction in key bureaucratic hurdles to obtaining short term visas – especially high language req., for blue collar workers from N5 to N4

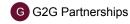


Conduct large scale demand generation and create brand India with top employers in Japan to gain share from Vietnam, China, Philippines



Pilot Japanese language, soft skills & culture training programs, to aid placement & retention of Indian talent in Japan

Demand side unlocks
Supply side unlocks





Poland: Existing temporary visa regimes however complex & arduous visa process for Indian applicants and high language barrier to be addressed



Poland migration outlook

~1M Migrant Stock, 2022

~800K Labor Migrant flow, 2021 (increased due to Ukraine unrest)

Ukraine, Belarus

Top source countries of new labor migrants

India-Poland migration corridor

~9K (<2%) India flow of workers, 2021

No formal MMPA / BLA in place between India & Poland

Poland visa categories		Coverage	Visa caps / quotas	
Long term	Work Permit A [3 years with extension]	While collar work - This permit is required for non-EU, non-EEA, and non-Swiss citizens who work for an employer in Poland	NA	
visas	Work Permit B [1 year with extension]	Foreign nationals who will work as a board member in a legal entity or a limited company	IVA	
Rotational visas – no	Seasonal Worker Permit – Type S [0.5 years only]	Seasonal blue collar jobs like agriculture, catering, hospitality, tourism etc.		
path to citizenship	Work Permit D [1 year only with no extension]	{white & blue collar} Foreigner is employed by a foreign employer without a branch, plant or other form of business activity in Poland	NA	

Poland: Existing temporary visa regimes however complex & arduous visa process for Indian applicants and high language barrier to be addressed



Key barriers to "rotational" mobility

- **Lengthy & Arduous Visa Processes**: Visa approvals take 5-6 months, with high uncertainty and cumbersome bureaucratic procedures with high documentation requirement
- Language Barriers: Language challenges significantly hinder recruitment and visa applications
- Low awareness of India as a source of talent vs. neighboring countries like Ukraine / Belarus

Achievable incremental India opportunity 2030:

35-40K p.a.

Emerging recommendations



Push for faster visa processing with simpler bureaucratic processes, such as set up more embassy-led Academic **Evaluation centers**





Conduct large scale demand generation and India branding with top employers in Poland to gain share from European countries



Pilot language training programs, esp. for blue-collar workers to assist placement of Indian talent to Poland

> **Demand side unlocks Supply side unlocks**



U.S.A.: Key structural barriers to work visas, such as eligibility of Indians for blue-collar visas & cap in H1B category



U.S.A migration outlook

~52M Migrant Stock, 2022

~800K Migrant flow, 2022

Mexico & India

Top source countries of new labor migrants

India-U.S.A. labour migration corridor

~95K India flow of workers, 2021

No formal MMPA / BLA in place between India & U.S.A.

Visa	Coverage	New Visa Issuance (in '000)	India's Share (in %)
H1B Visa {white collar}	Highly skilled with min bachelors', including nurses	65K	75%
H2A Visa {blue collar}	Seasonal agricultural jobs	310K	Not eligible
H2B Visa {blue collar}	Seasonal non-agriculture blue-collar jobs (incl. construction)	66K	Not eligible
O Visas {white collar}	Extraordinary ability in science, business, education, etc.	32K	6%
L1 Visas	Temporary Transfer of exec/manager	77K	33%

Highly ambitious structural unlocks such as inclusion in H2B category / increasing H1B quotas needed with limited upside expected

Demand: G2G negotiations and partnerships via MEA can act as a key demand generator for top destinations

Horizon 1: 'Achievable' short term unlocks



Conduct bilateral negotiations to reduce bureaucratic hurdles

- Conduct G2G partnership and advocacy to address specific country and profession bureaucratic unlocks
- Negotiate specific profession BLAs (such as the Portugal India hospitality BLA) to accelerate opportunistic migration basis destination country needs



Create brand India and drive employer awareness for Indian skills

- Conduct large scale employer outreach, targeting top employers in target markets and job fairs to gain market access, esp.in net new regions (Japan, Germany) to provide confidence on Indian talent
- Facilitate conversations embassies, high level PMO meetings, summits (G20, ASEAN, etc.), etc. to position Talent Brand "India"

---- Horizon 2: 'Ambitious' long term structural unlocks



Advocate for long term openness to rotational / guest workers

Conduct long term advocacy for higher number of temporary visas to expand employment opportunities for Indian workers while addressing issues related to liability for overstays, illegal migration, and enforcement of temporary guest worker rules, assuming some legal responsibility for monitoring and compliance to strengthen negotiations.

Illustrative: Horizon 1 'Achievable' unlocks by country

C	ountry	Unlock
	Eastern Europe	Streamline complex & arduous visa process (current timelines 5-6 months) with more India based embassy-led Academic Evaluation centers in India and relaxation of visa requirements
•	Japan •	Conduct large scale demand generation and India branding with top employers in Japan to gain share from Vietnam, China, Philippines Push for reduction in key bureaucratic hurdles to obtaining short term visas – especially high language req., for blue collar workers from N5 to N4
_	Germany	Negotiate removal of key bureaucratic hurdles to obtaining blue collar worker visas – especially high language requirement and documentation in German (for e.g. only German driving license accepted for logistics workers)
NZ *	Australia	Negotiate streamlining of visa and job offer process to reduce high costs for employee (\$2000-3000 currently) and increase in minimum salary thresholds especially for blue collar workers
	United Kingdom	Focus on replicating nursing success to other blue collar professions, leverage mobility partnership to lower salary thresholds and fast-track visas for other shortage list occupations like construction workers, etc.
*	Canada	Leverage existing strong bilateral labour flows to expand to other professions, specifically nursing. Negotiate for reduced French requirements for nursing
\$200.6	Gulf •	Expand existing bilateral ties to expand hiring pool beyond semi-skilled blue collar construction and industrial workers

Supply: Debottleneck key barriers for skilling and accreditation for top occupations and roles





Skilling



UK, Germany, Canada; Nursing

- Provide training with advanced equipment to improve readiness for PTE/ CRNE -Canada, CBT+ OSCE – UK, NCLEX-RN/ CGFNS – USA²
- Subsidize high-cost bridging courses & tests
- Improve coordination with compliance req of UK, Canada & Germany

Australia, UK; Nursing

- Incorporate course patterns to reduce bridging req (e.g., ONP in UK, CAP in NZ)
- Set up Task force for course development

East Asian countries, Gulf, Eastern Europe; Blue-Collar roles in Industry & Construction

 Skill tests conducted by ITI to test abilities to do shuttering work, tiles and marble fitting and wall

All; Dynamic demand planning, Set up State Skill Development Authority/ World Skill Center in major industrial states for availability of skilled workforce e.g. Orissa

Harmonization



Intl. benchmarking; NSQF equivalence with global standards/regional frameworks

 Push for standardize minimum work exp. req. across white- & blue-collar roles

UK, Germany, Australia; Nursing

 Nationalized licensing for nursing schools, no state involvement

East Asian countries; Transport & Construction

- Issue Indian DL in English to enable direct acceptance in multiple countries
- Awareness & compliance of labor contract terms to avoid exploitation, under payment of domestic workers

All; Blue-Collar jobs
Partner with international accreditation bodies to provide the necessary work-certifications

Language & Other trainings



Japan, Germany; Sales Prof, Clerks

 Mandate >1 foreign language as part of core curriculum in schools, ITIs e.g.
 French, German and Japanese language pilot training in 58 Delhi govt schools

UK, Singapore, Italy; Hospitality

 Leverage strong Indian diaspora, growing tourism sector to send talent to mainly English-speaking countries

East Asian countries, Russia

 Cultural/behavioral training to understand norms

Pre-Departure Orientation on legal & safe pathways, financial & soft skills

- Mandate free soft skills, language training at source & destination country like JPEPA
- Subsidize high-cost programs via partnerships
- In language centers (e.g. UK NCLE: German Goethe institute model)

Supply: Formalize financing and enable industry acceleration by building Industry Acceleration trust and prospect awareness









Two key enablers to support the primary interventions

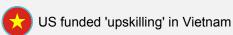
Financing: Multi-institutional support to cover for pre-migration costs & risks

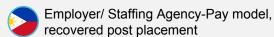
- Special low interest, bridging loans, esp. for blue collar (National banks, NBFCs)
- Set up rotating fund of employers as outcome-linked financing
- Migration **Insurance schemes** to cover risks of employer, employee
- **Subsidies, grants, scholarships** for skilling by private, public org.

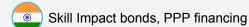
Industry Acceleration: For protection of trust & welfare of migrants, and reparation of workers

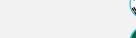
- Active overseas support, grievance redressal
- Expand existing network of Migrant Resource centers
- Mandatory check of certifications of employees to reduce employer risks
- Agency registration & sanctions for non-compliance
- Public & private bodies to offer **low-interest loans** for business, reskilling for returnees, incentivizing employers to hire

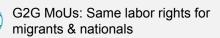














Set up Migration Regulation Framework



DMW & OWWA: Cash, free tickets & re-skilling support



Telangana: Returnees' profiling, financial support



23 Source: Carbo management; BCG analysis

Appendix

Our approach for estimating the market opportunity for India



Economic measure of overall opportunity (high-income countries)

- Demand (by country)
 - Real GDP growth forecast adjusted for labor productivity
 - Analyze historical relationship between real GDP & job growth
 - 2023 demand = Labor employed + excess jobs (current opening vs 10 yr. avg.)
- Supply (by country): UNPD median scenario & current LFPR for high income countries considered
- Estimate gap between demand and supply for 2030, 2040 & 2047 (country level)



Deaverage opportunity by occupation (top 20 countries)

- Define standard occupation taxonomy (two level hierarchy based on ISCO)
- For top 20 countries with >90% of opp, estimate 2030 composition of opportunity across occupations, basis current employment % by occupation x country and forecasted growth (by occup.)
- Estimate automation/off-shoring factor by occupation and recalibrate opportunity break-down



Assess India's Right to Win (Occupation x Country)

- Assess several geo and occupation specific indicators along with India's starting point
 - Country: Visa, migration outlook, bilateral relations, local language needs
 - Occupation: India talent pool, certification/licensing needs, local language
- Classified opps basis RTW into either requiring focused support to scale or structural interventions



Build scenarios and estimate India's potential opportunity

- Three scenarios: Conservative, Achievable, Aggressive, basis share of India in new opp
 - India's share observed between 15-20% (Gulf, US) to 2-4% (Japan)
- Three timelines: 2030, 2040, 2047 reflecting time taken to achieve potential opportunity
- Gross/net flow estimated using rate of return
- Total stock of overseas workers in 2030 estimated using current stock and net flows

We are leveraging perspectives from several diverse stakeholder groups and have conducted extensive research to inform our analysis





















2 Government departments and senior bureaucrats













Think tanks and professional bodies











Ecosystem players (legal, skilling, financing, etc.)















Global publications, analyst reports & databases



















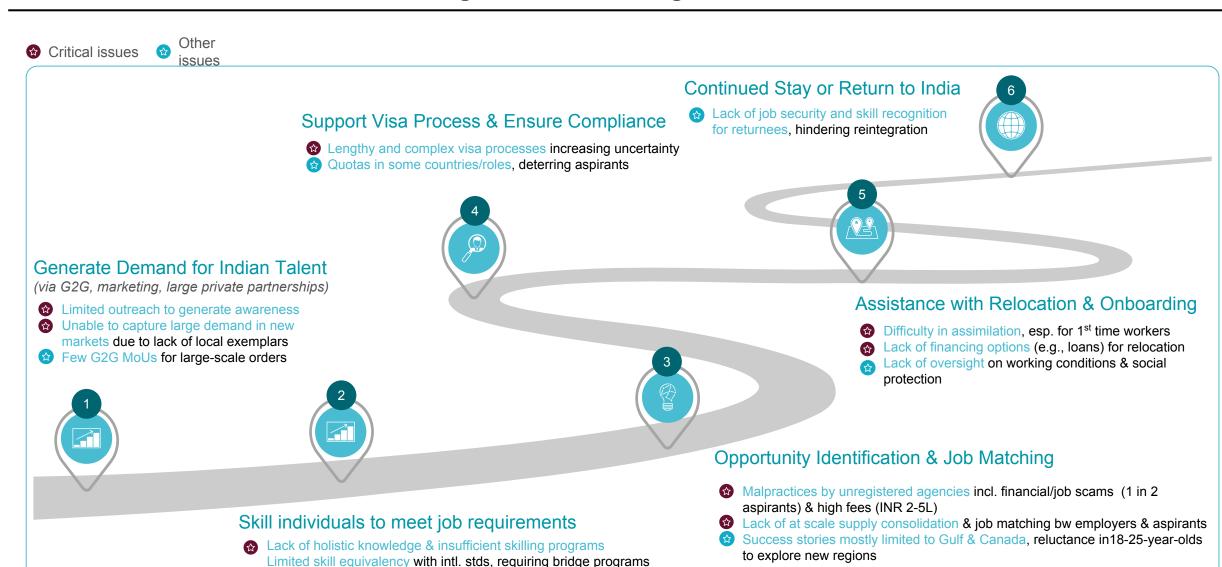
BCG topic experts and proprietary repositories

Topic experts in international mobility, skilling, immigration in key countries (Germany, ME, Australia)

Proprietary databases and perspectives on roles of future, job/labor shortage, BCG global talent reports, country attractiveness index

Indian talent faces several challenges when seeking to move abroad for work

Need for English/local language proficiency in many professions



Sources: Expert Interviews, BCG Analysis

Approach | Baseline numbers

- Basis annual visas provided to Indians in the country for work by category, Indians working at L1 occupation split level calculated
 - MEA flow data calculated for triangulations & growth
- Considered OECD International Immigration Outlook 2023 for split by occupation (L2) of overall migrant workers in OECD countries
 - Wherever data was not available, at complete L2 level external search done for indicative numbers
- Derived baseline or current split of annual Indian migrant flows by country x occupation with some additional secondary research

